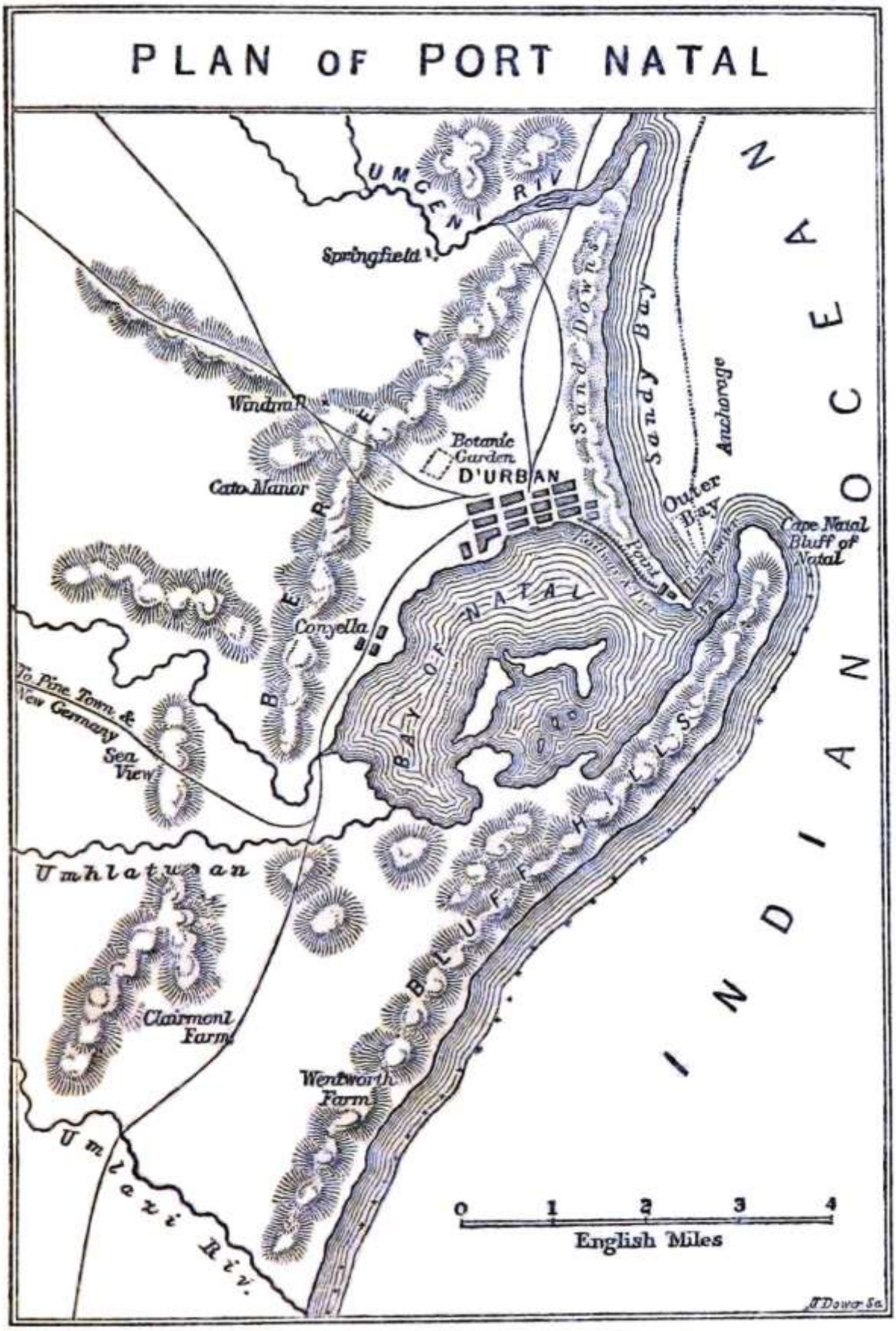
A Chronological Sequence of Old Maps of Durban

Gavin D Peckham – January 2024. Updated March 2025



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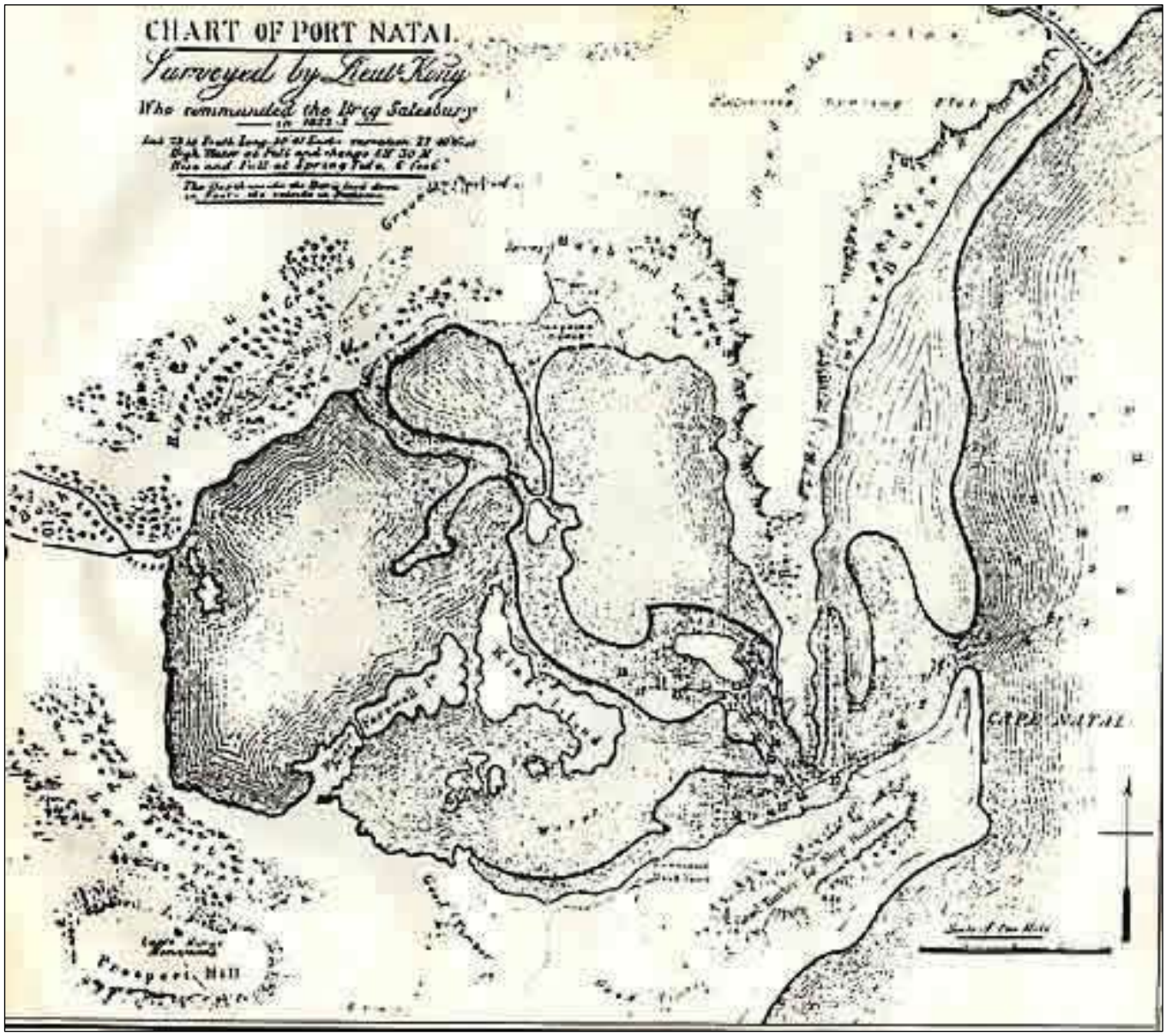
These maps have been found by a Google Images search and many are from publications by Yashaen Luckan (D'Urban Resilience - The Warwick Junction Precinct) and Rosenberg et al (The Making of Place: The Warwick Junction Precinct). These authors in turn give their own references to the original source of the maps, wtmb. On 23 June 1835 Port Natal was renamed Durban but the harbour itself was still called Port Natal for quite some time before it too began to be called Durban Harbour.

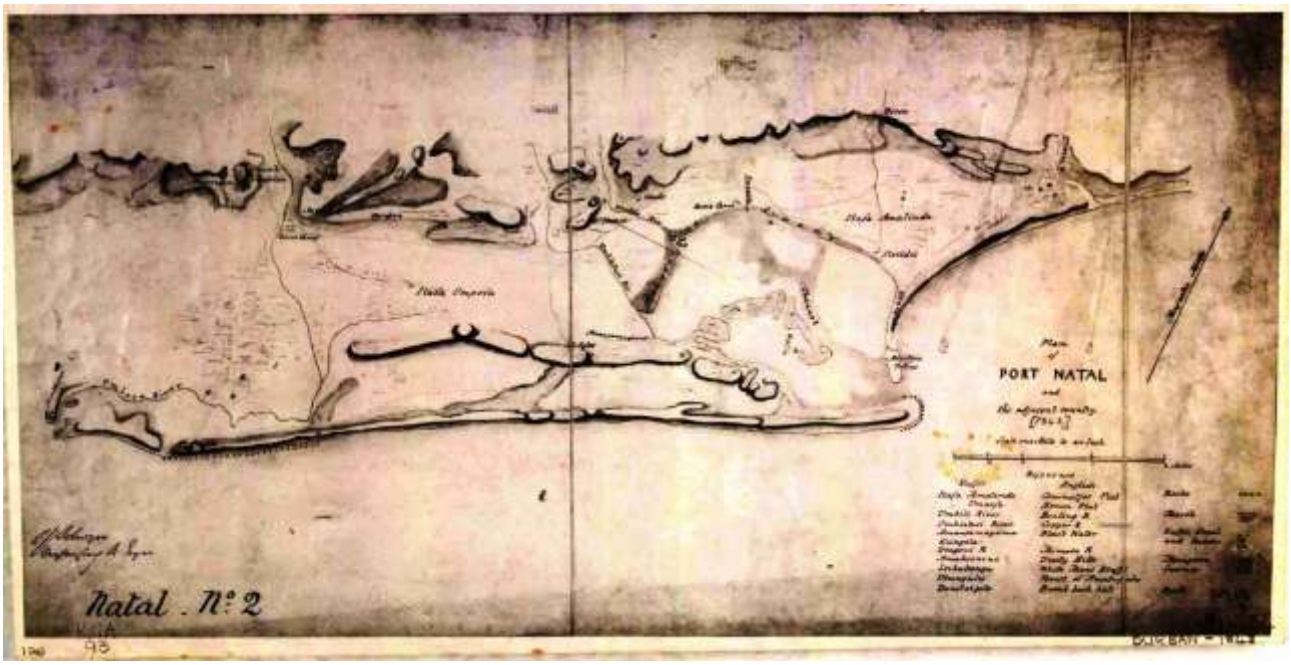
NOTE: Some of these maps may be significantly enlarged if they are first downloaded from the given links.

NOTE: Several of the links given below lead, apart from the maps, to a great deal of interesting information about the history of Durban. They are well worth following.

Port Natal – 1822 (Lieut. King's map)
http://www.kznnorthhappenings.co.za/historykzn.htm



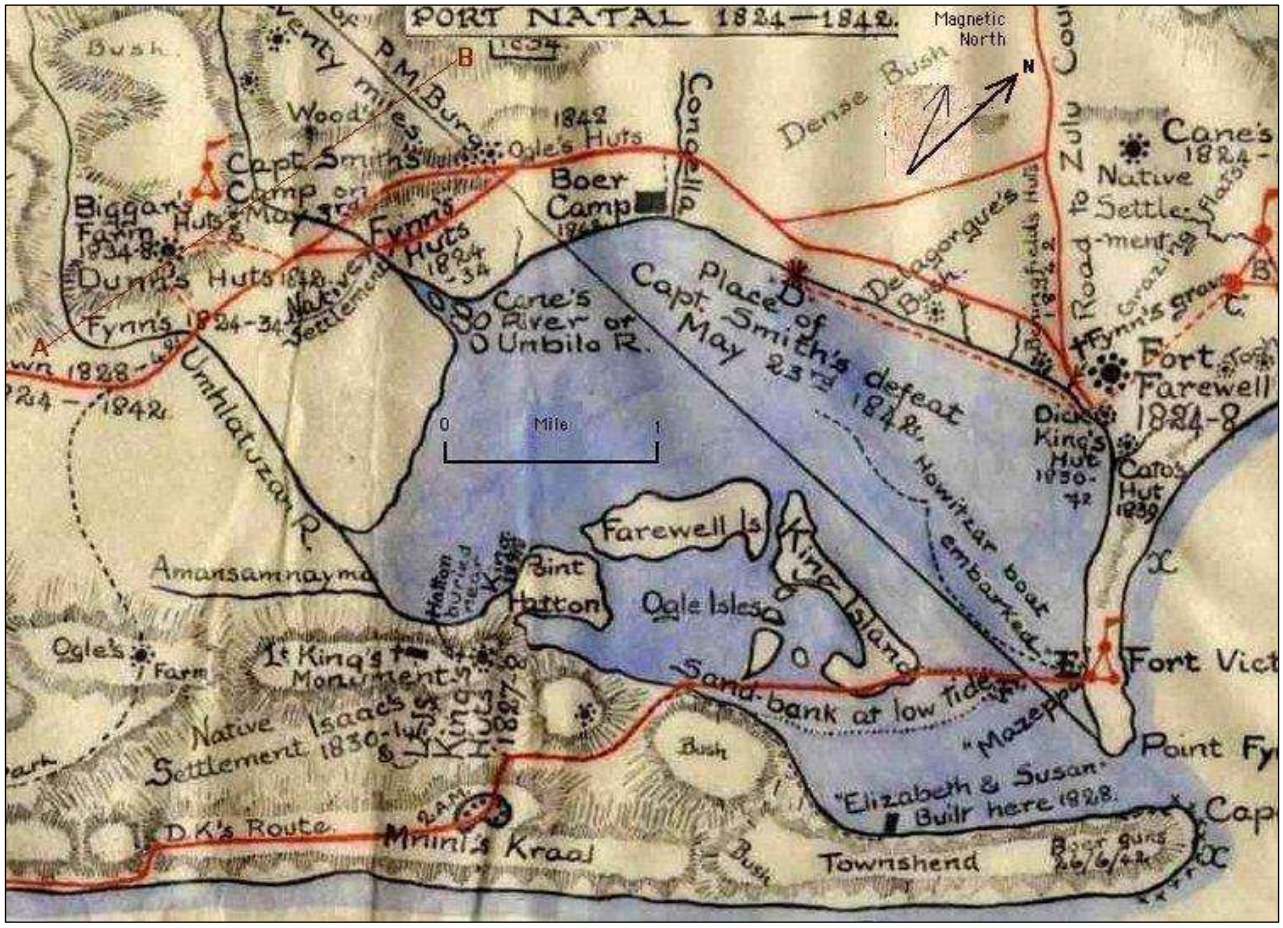
Port Natal – 1842 (a)



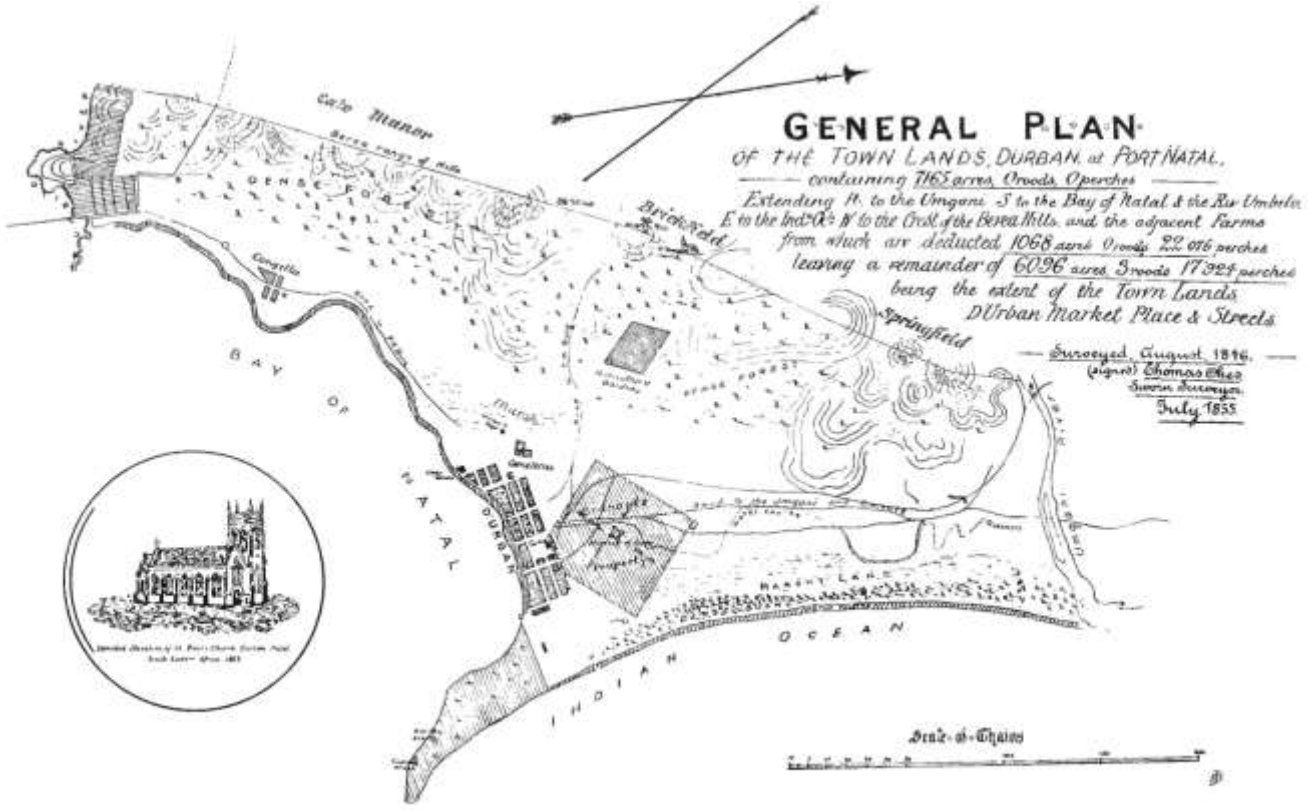
https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fi2.wp.com%2Fwww.ulwaziprogramme.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2016%2F11%2FPortNatal1842.jpg%3Fssl%3D1&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ulwaziprogramme.org%2Fportnatal1842%2F&docid=eBemvPV6hsesFM&tbnid=ClIximM2zpeXeM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwjd8pOOl7DnAhXNA2MBHX_IAuUQMwhBKAowCg..i&w=2700&h=1378&itg=1&hl=en-GB&bih=601&biw=1366&q=port%20natal&ved=0ahUKEwjd8pOOl7DnAhXNA2MBHX_IAuUQMwhBKAowCg&iact=mrc&uact=8

Port Natal – 1842 (b)

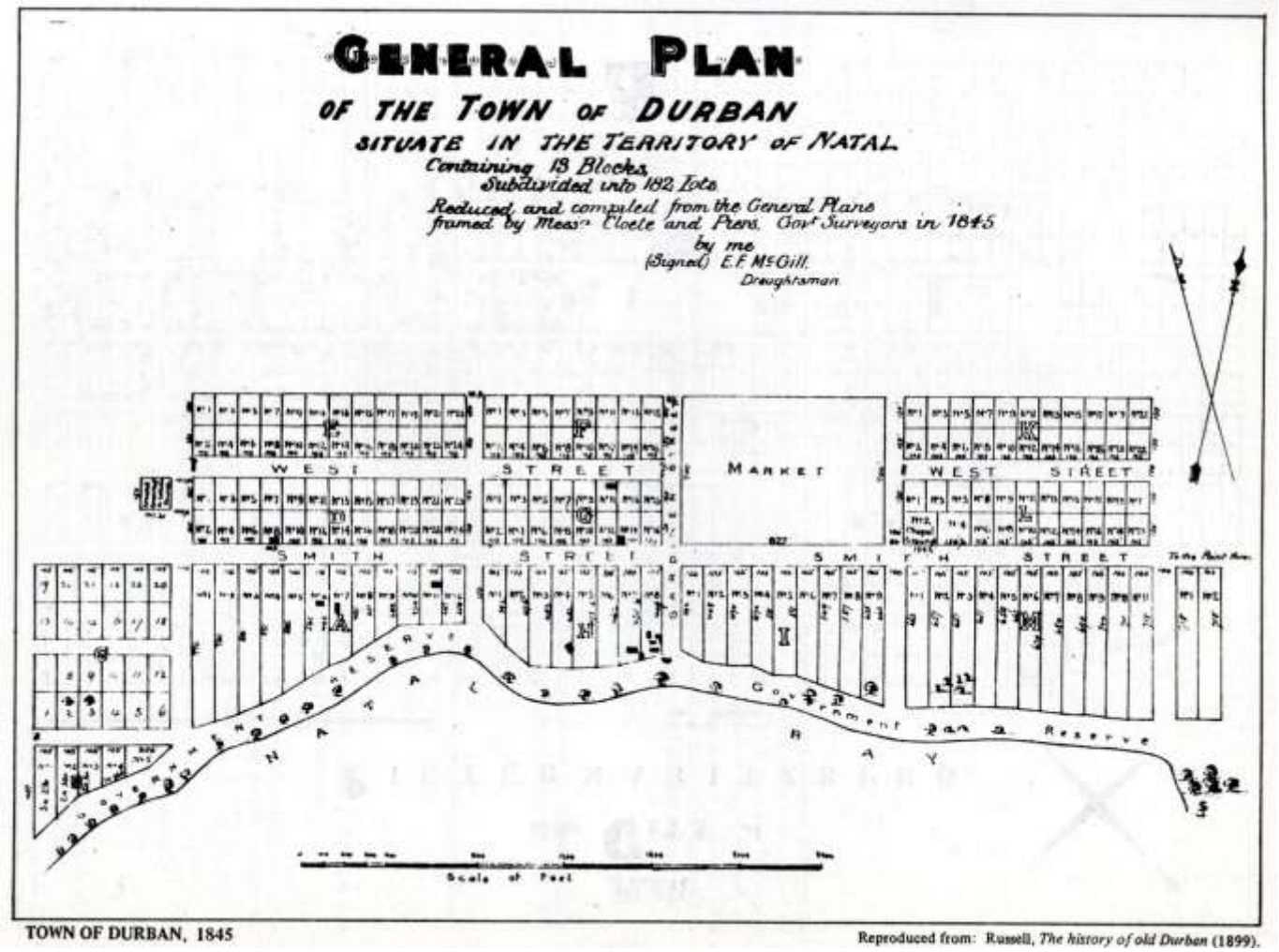
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Port-Natal-1824-1842-This-map-shows-the-Port-Natal-Bay-and-surrounds_fig3_332607316 (www.salbu.co.za)



DURBAN – 1845 From *The History Of Old Durban And Reminiscences Of An Emigrant Of 1850*. By: George Russell. Publ 1899. Page 226.


GENERAL PLAN
OF THE TOWN LANDS, DURBAN, at PORT NATAL,
containing 7165 acres, 0 roods, 0 perches
Extending N. to the Umgeni, S to the Bay of Natal & the Rv Umbilo
E to the Ind. Oc. W to the Crest of the Berea Hills, and the adjacent Farms
from which are deducted 1068 acres 0 roods 22 076 perches
leaving a remainder of 6096 acres 3 roods 17 325 perches
being the extent of the Town Lands
D'Urban Market Place & Streets
Surveyed August 1846.
(signed) Thomas Cloete
Surveyor
July 1855
BAY OF NATAL
INDIAN OCEAN
Springfield
Scale of Chains

From the same book, pg 61 we have a more detailed map of the town. The four maps that follow are from the period shortly after this map was published and appear to be slightly simplified versions based on this map.

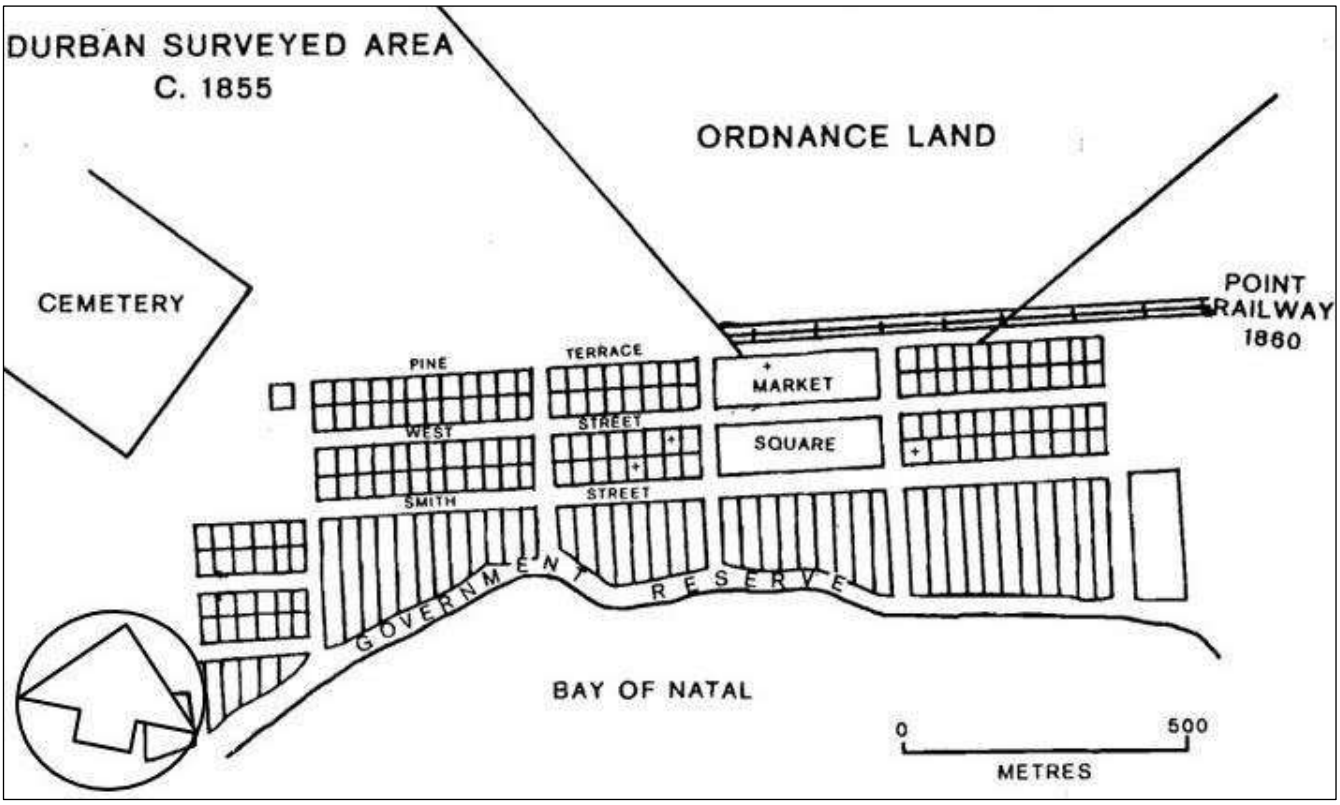


TOWN OF DURBAN, 1845

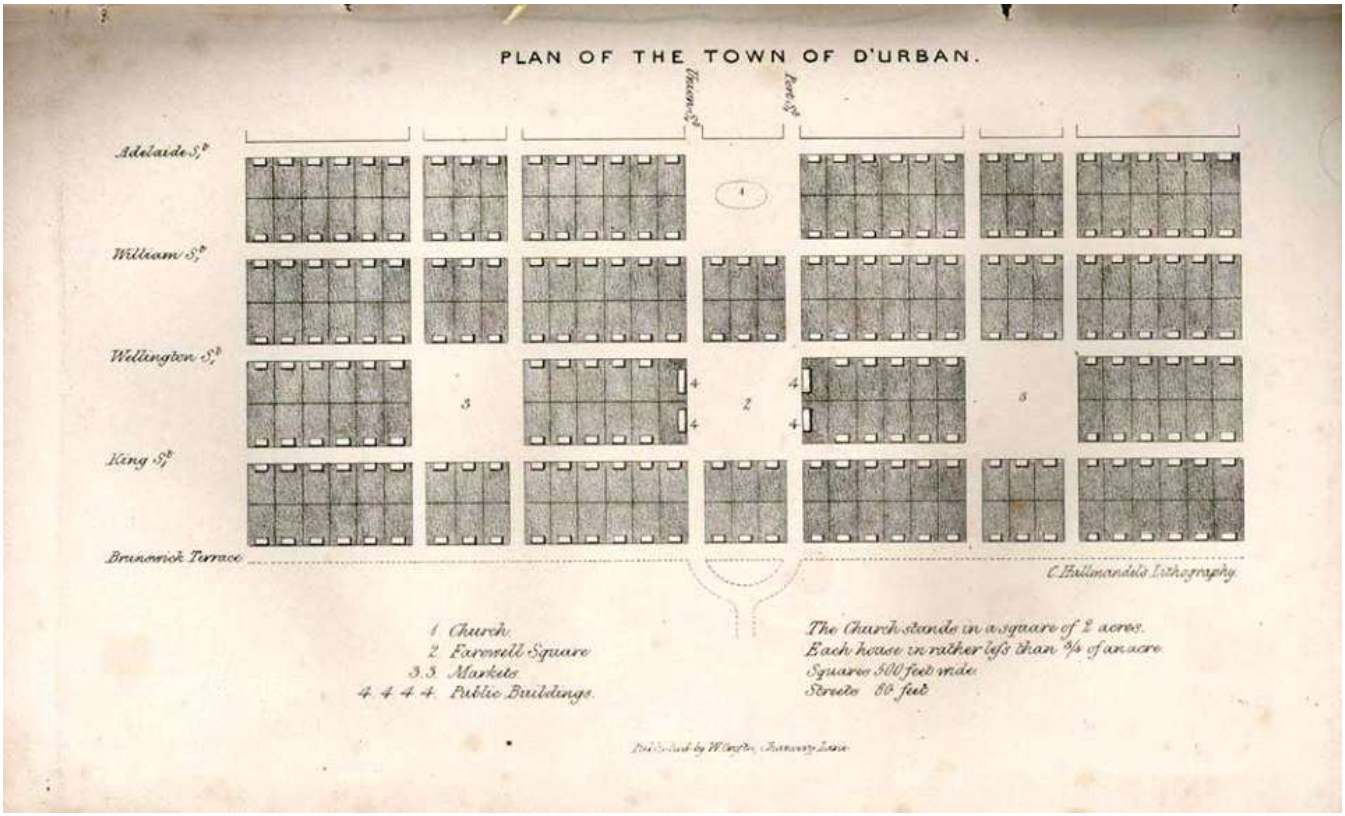
Reproduced from: Russell, *The history of old Durban* (1899).

DURBAN ~ 1850 (City Area)
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2447345548779047&set=gm.3659501230981291&idorvanity=2336287406636020

DURBAN ~ 1855 (City Area)
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Boer-Plan-of-Durban-1885-Rosenberg-et-al-2013_fig5_332607316

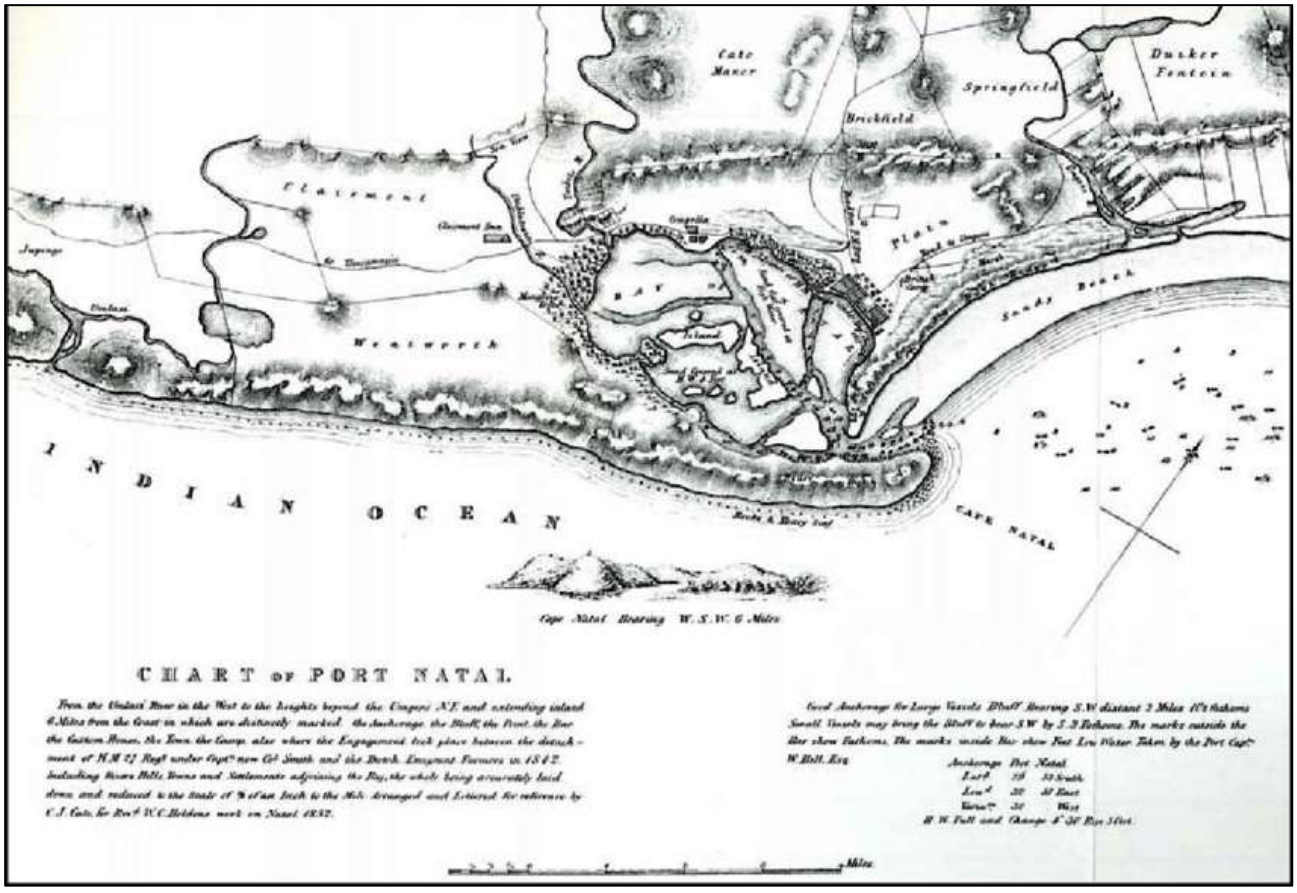


Durban – 1850s or 1860s – date uncertain

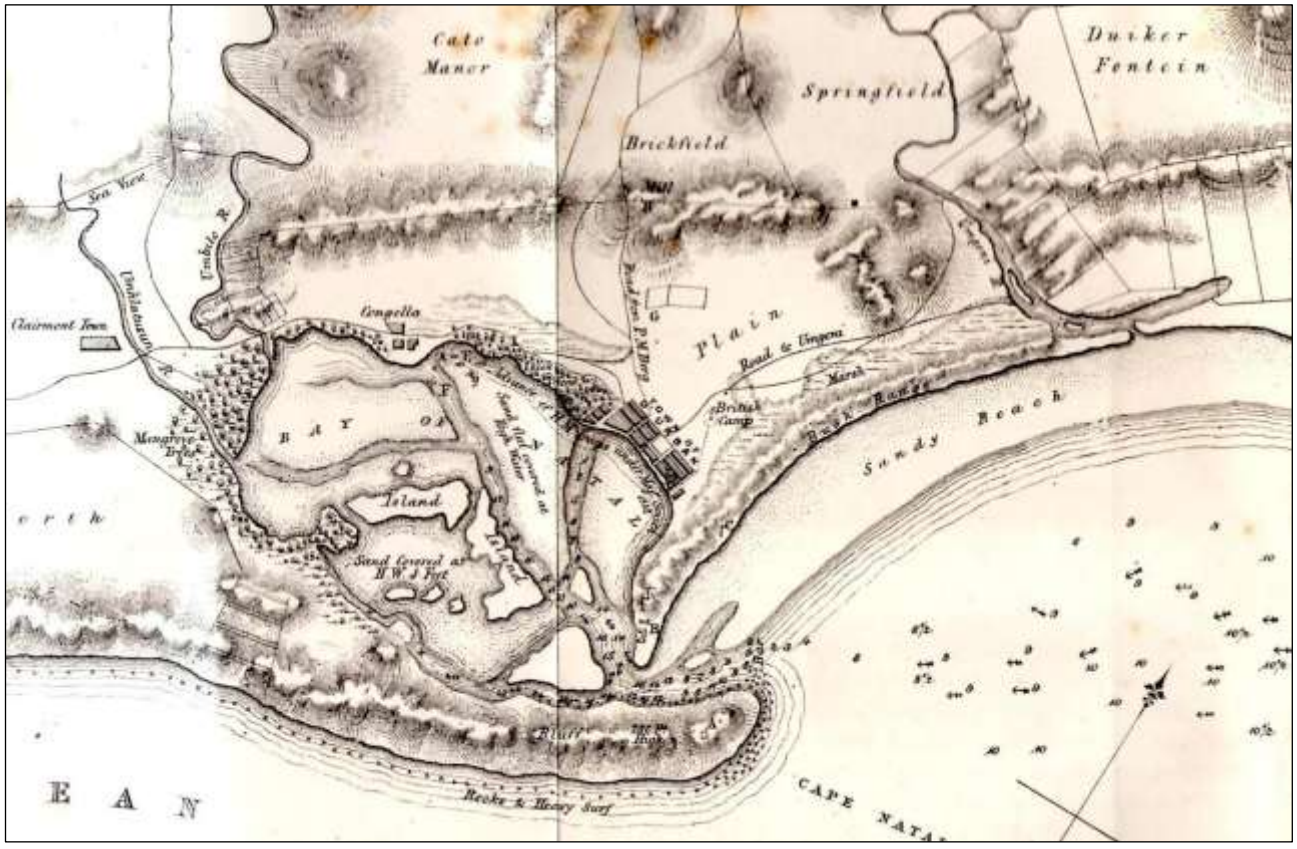


Continued on the following page.

Port Natal – 1855 (Harbour and Surroundings)
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Port-Natal-Holden-1855_fig10_312628386



Detail of previous map. (http://sanationalsociety.co.za/newsletter-for-july-2016/ **)**

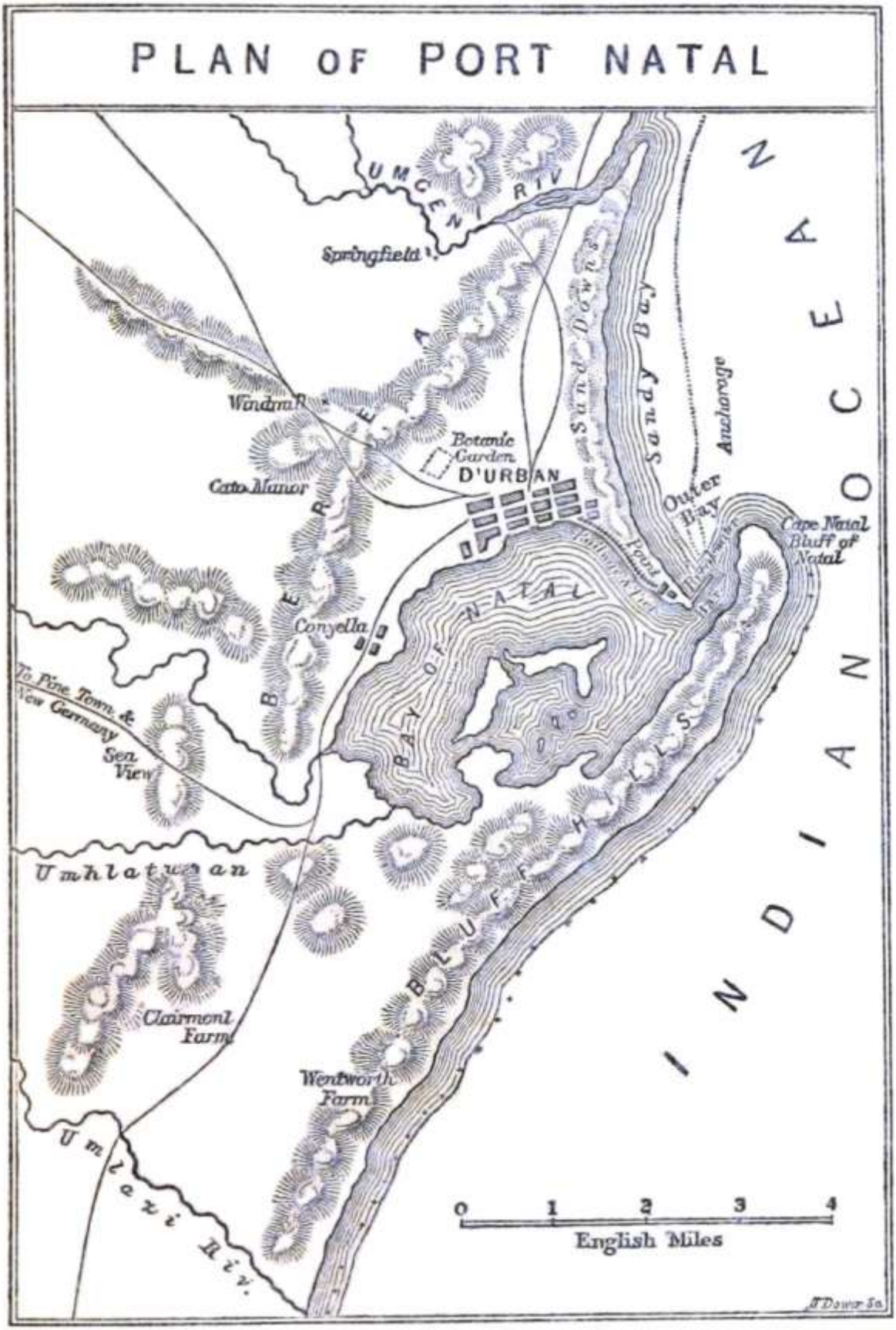


Port Natal – 1860

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Plan_of_Port_Natal.jpg

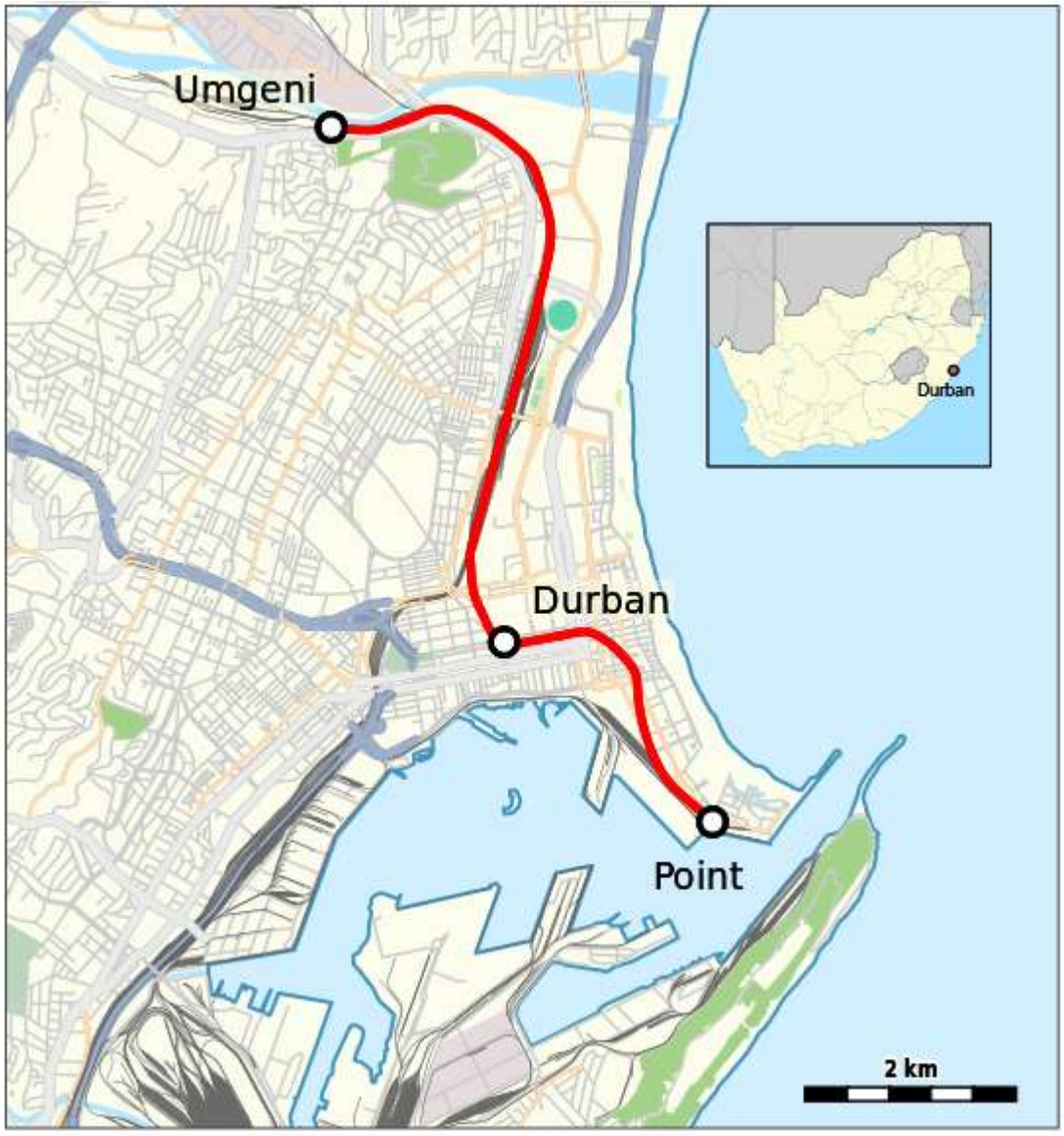
Accession number: British Library 10095.f.23. Source: Image extracted from The Colony of Natal. An account of the characteristics and capabilities of this British Dependency by MANN, Robert James.

Note the 3 km Point – Durban railway – the first railway in South Africa. The solid lines are roads / tracks.



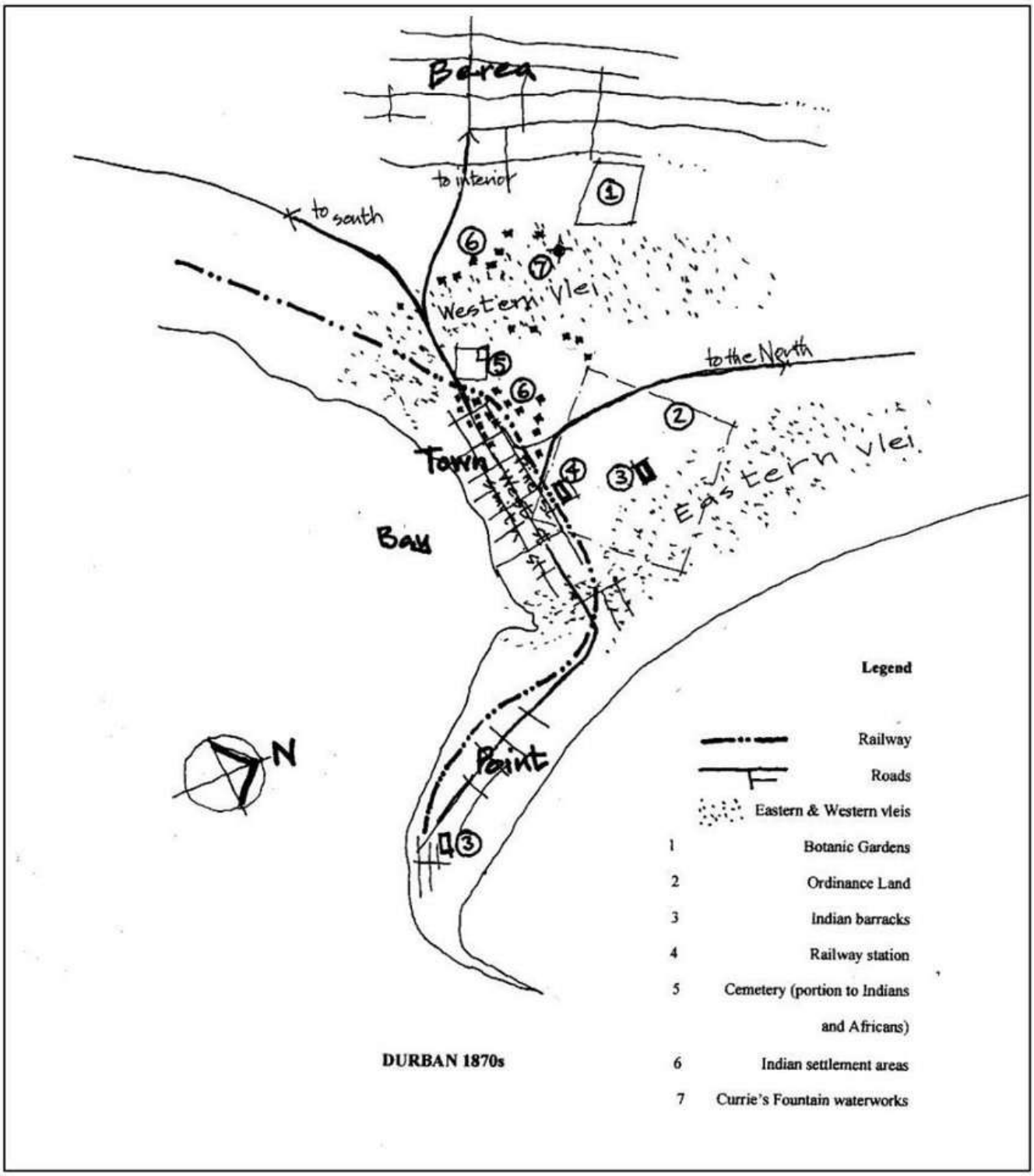
Durban – 1860 to 1867

This sketch, superimposed on a modern map of Durban, shows the first railway ever built in South Africa, vis. The 3 km Durban – Point line built in June 1860 and the 6 km extension to the Umgeni River built in January 1867. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Natal_Railway.svg?fbclid=IwY2xjawLCARRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETBXeGJPdlBYSTR0MUpxVXBSAR555zre_caRpS45qBkK_-916PKGbiepTS53HGtr-PJr_63GpywGcQO-uPGY2A_aem_2esYPD1L9VINHQ2Y4ElDsw



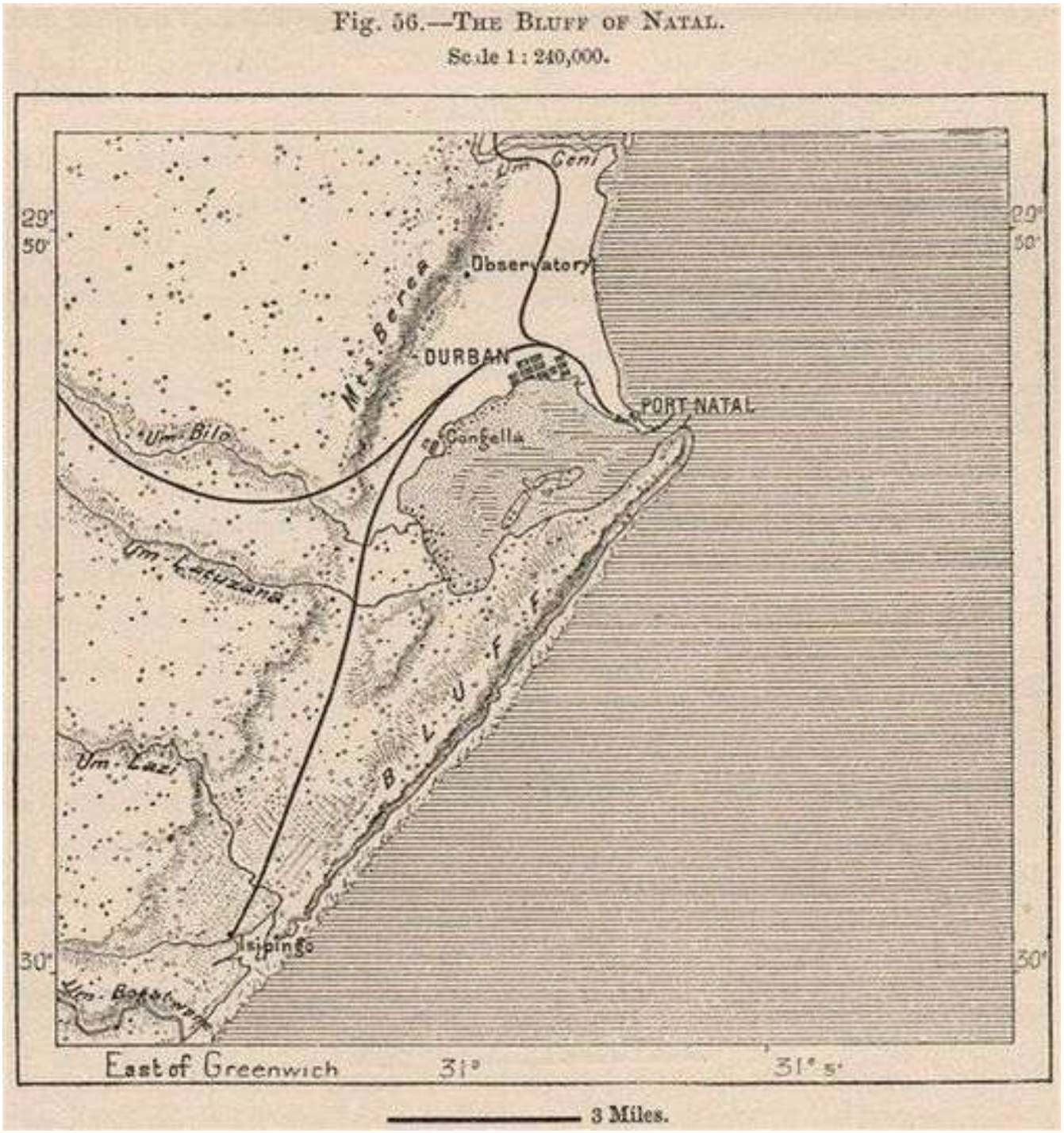
Durban – 1870

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-town-of-Durban-1870s-Rosenberg-et-al-2013_fig8_332607316



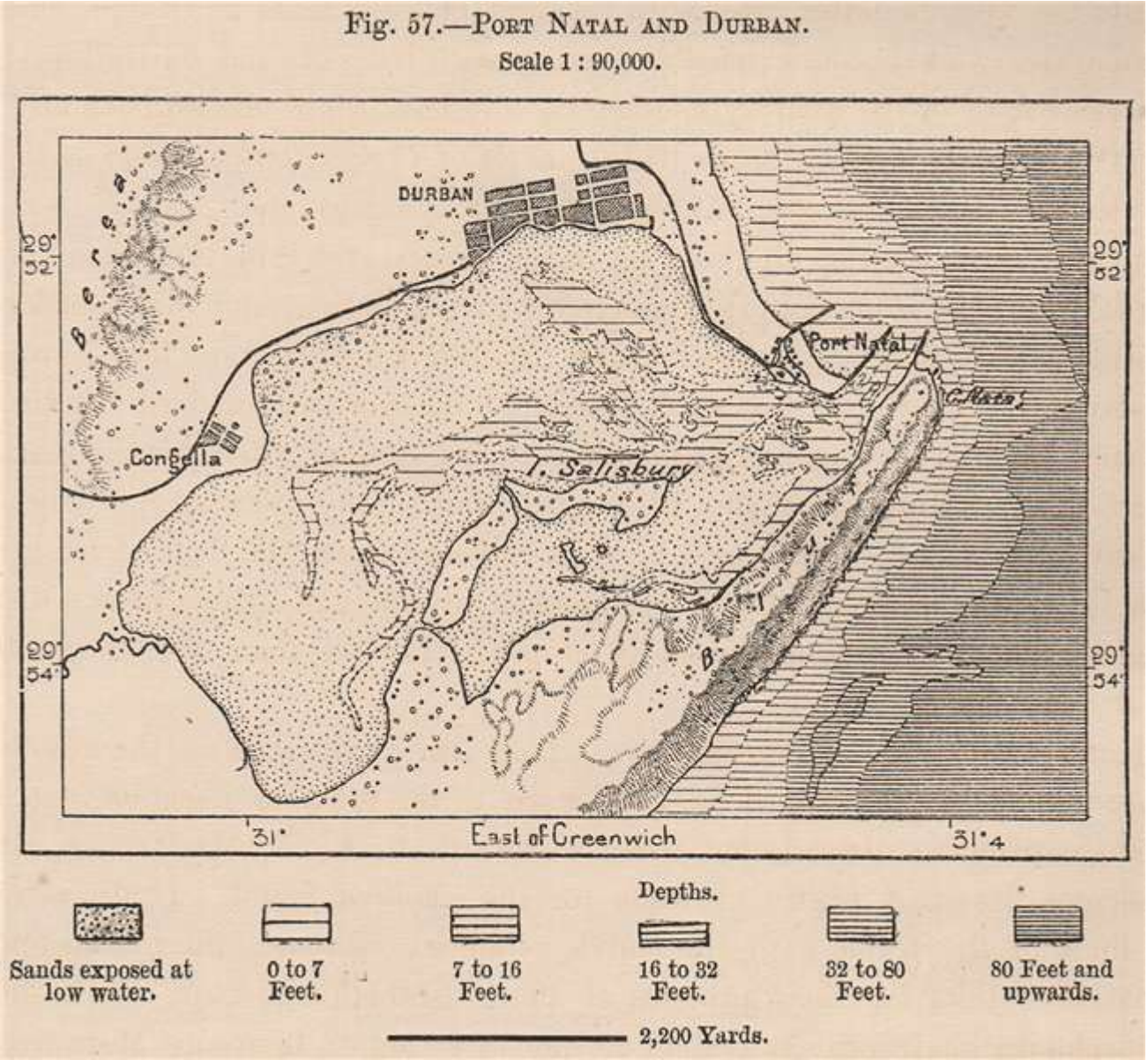
1885 - Durban and surrounding areas

This is a map posted on Facebook on 2023-10-15 and credited to Malcolm Noodie. I have no further information. The solid lines are railways.

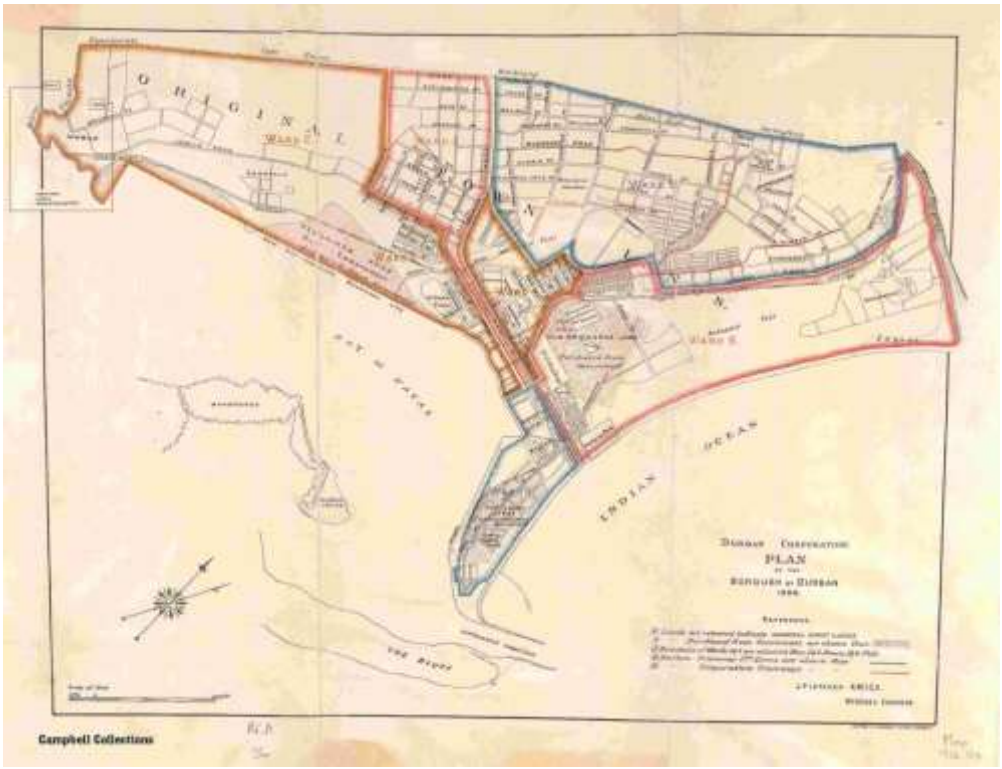


1885 - Durban and surrounding areas

This is a map posted on Facebook on 2023-12-30 by Allan Manley on the site **Durban Down Memory Lane**. It looks like a 'close up' of the previous map. I have no further information.

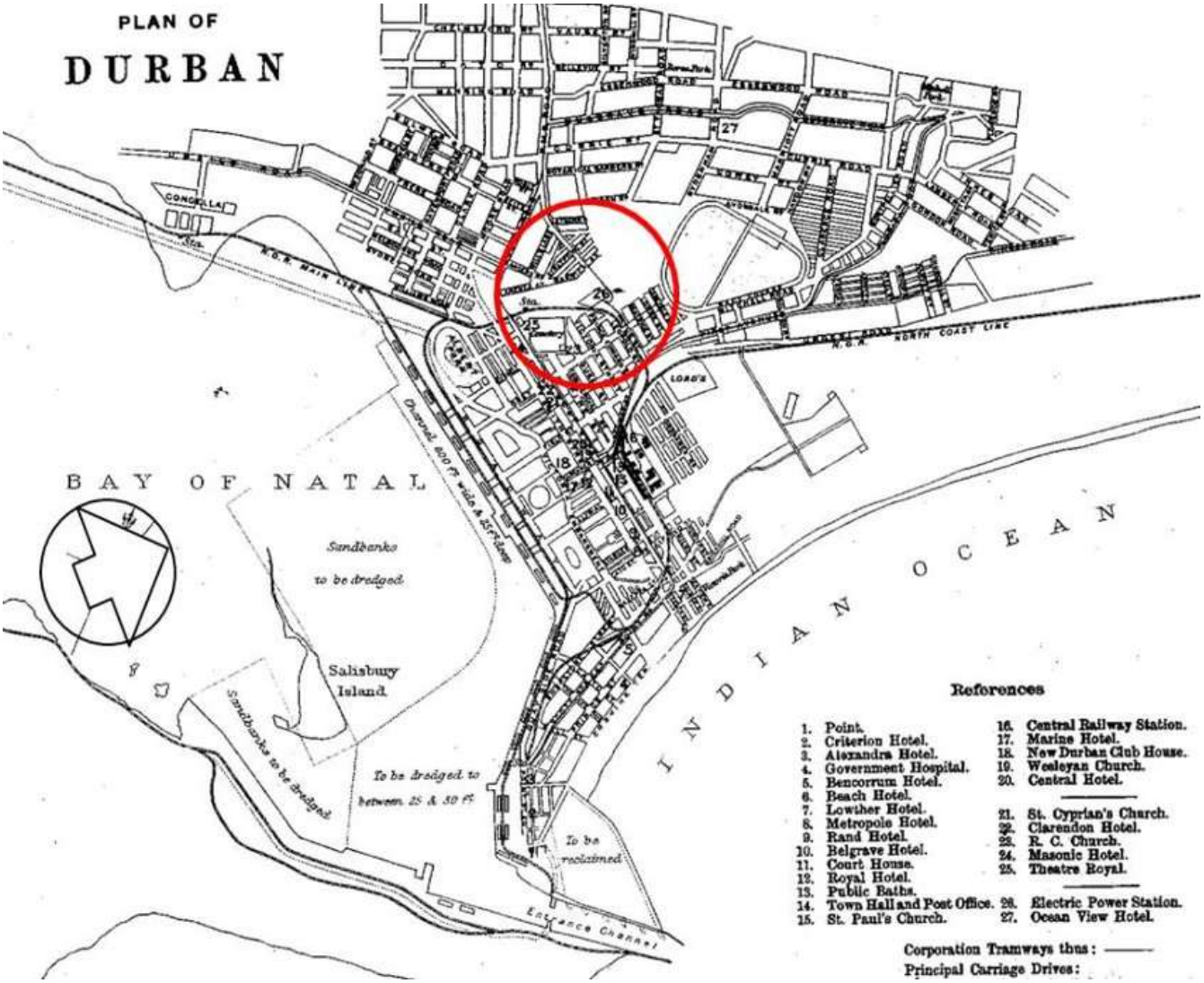


Durban – 1898



Durban – 1900s
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-growth-of-Durban-1870s-to-1900s-Rosenberg-et-al-2013_fig9_332607316

Durban – 1903



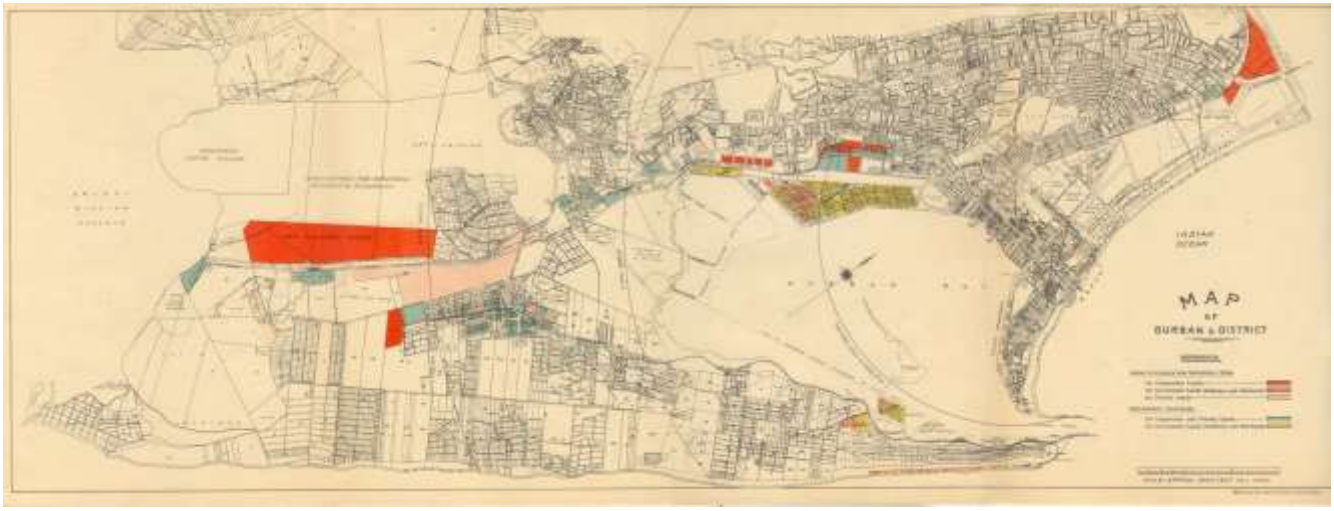
Continued on the following page.

Durban – 1903

Durban – 1911

Durban – 1930 (Harbour)
https://www.fad.co.za/Resources/industrial/baymap.jpg (Can be expanded on link page.)

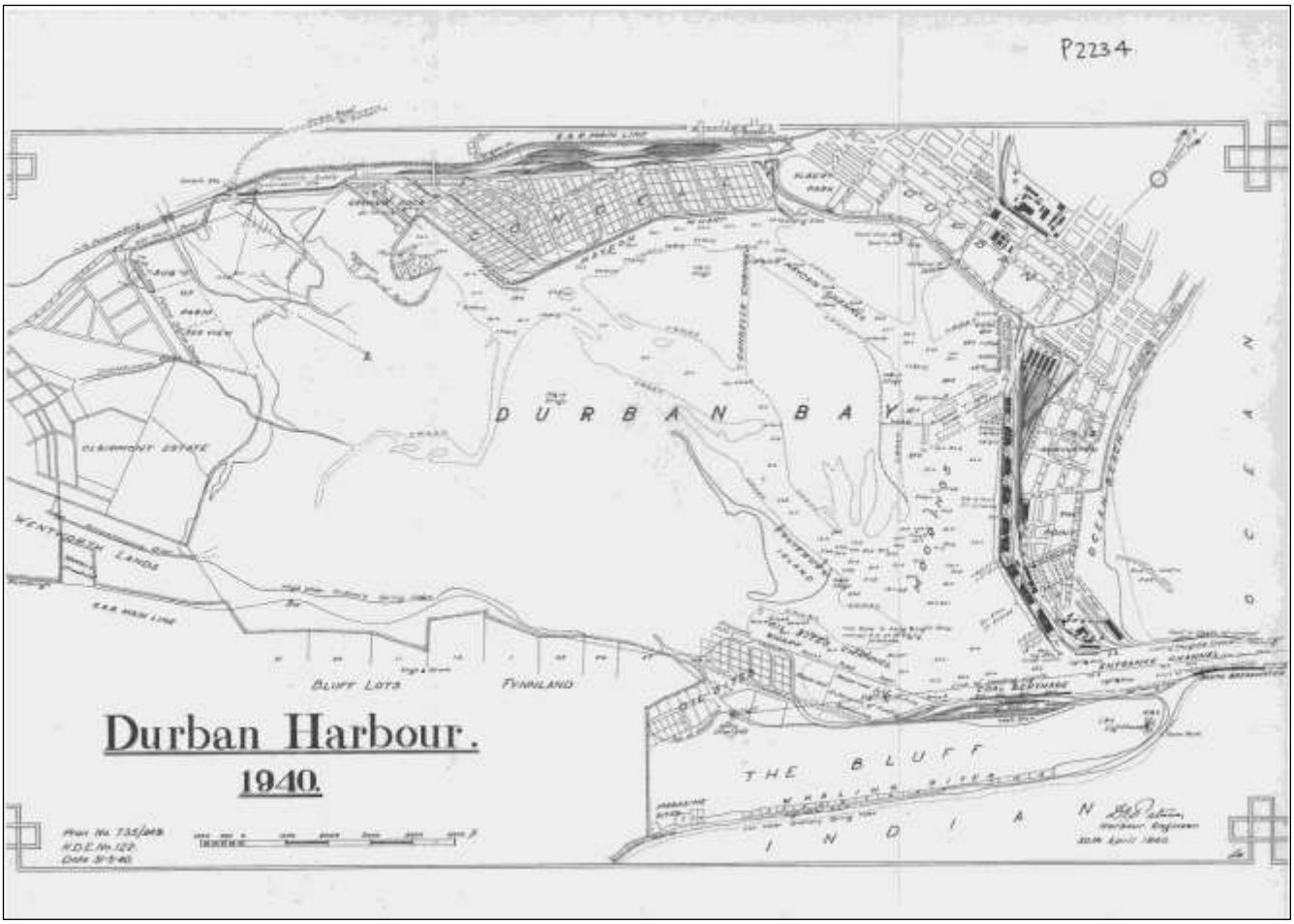
Durban – 1930 (City)
https://www.fad.co.za/Resources/industrial/citymap.jpg (Can be expanded on link page.)



P. T. O.

Durban Harbour – 1940

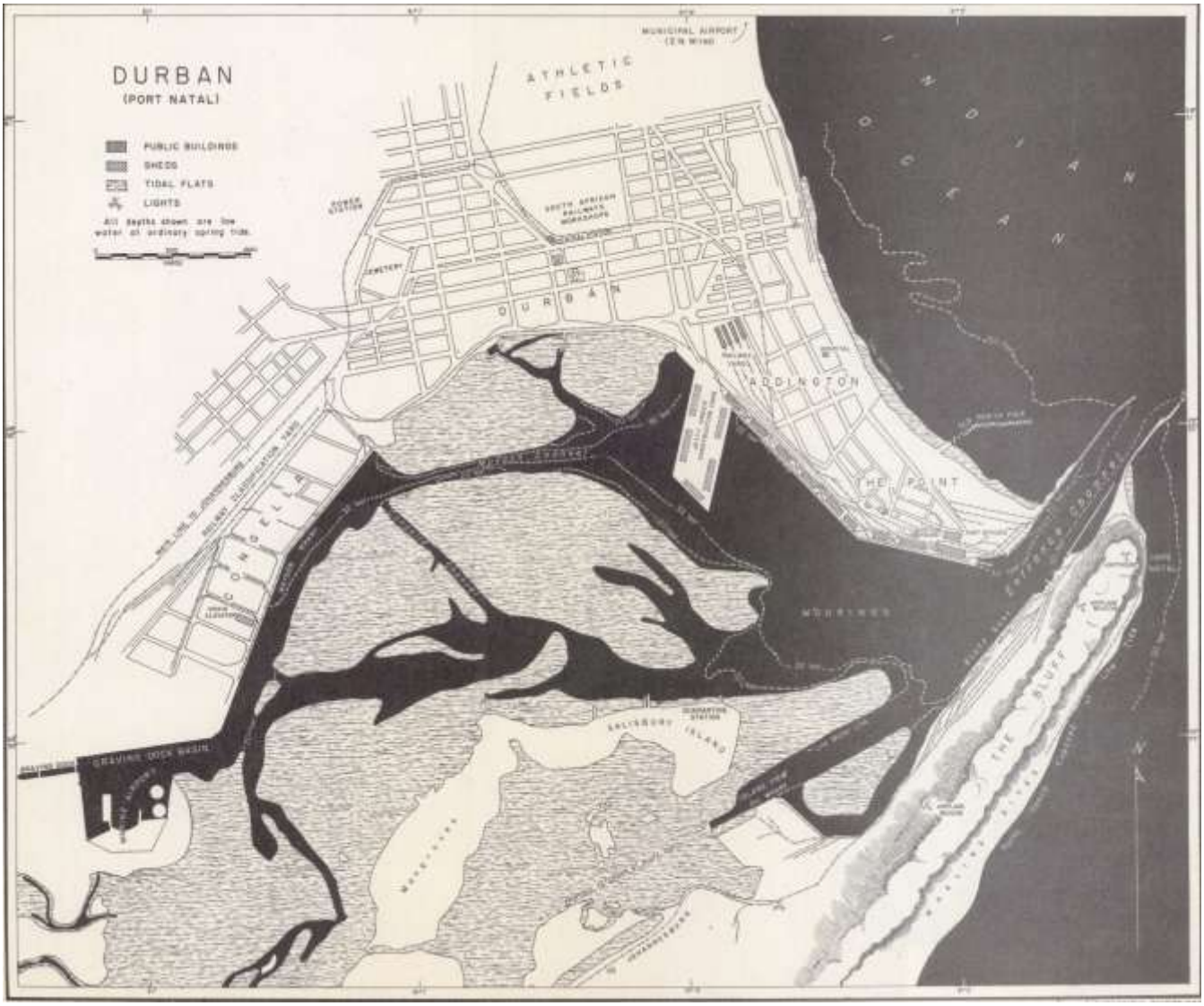
https://atom.drisa.co.za/collections/P_Collection_lo-res/P2234.jpg (Can be expanded on link page.)



P. T. O.

Durban – 1942

https://purl.stanford.edu/kb739cc3226 (Can be expanded considerably on the link page.)



P. T. O.

1950 – Durban Central

Warwick Junction Precinct: 1950s

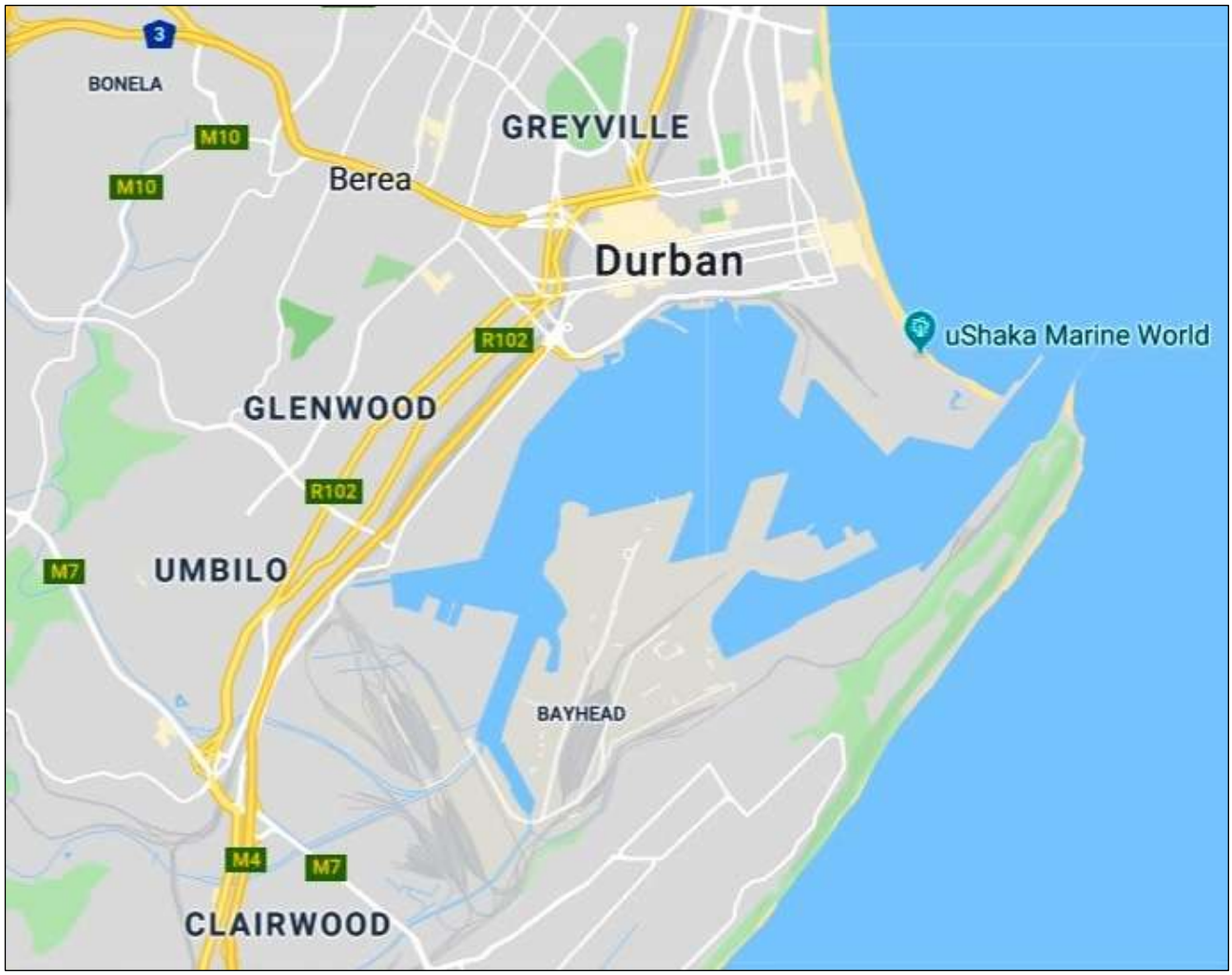
Legend

(B) Bus Ranks

Railway line

1	Reduced Currie's Fountain grounds	2	St Augustine's school	3	Kathiawad Schools
4	Orient Islamic School	5	M L Sultan Tech College	6	Sastri College
7	St Aidan's hospital	8	St Anthony's School	9	Indian Girls' High
10	Hindu Tamil Institute	11	Ha'Penny School	12	Fire Station
13	Early Morning Market	14	English Market		
15	Oldham House 'university' for non whites	16	Technical College	17	West St Mosque
18	Grey St Mosque	19	Emmanuel Cathedral	20	Cemetery & Badsha Pir
21	Indian Market	22	'Duchene' residential area	23	Berea Station
24	Red Square	25	'Bantu' Social Centre		

Durban – 2019 (Google Maps)



Durban – 2019 (Google Earth)

For a plethora of recent maps of Durban harbour simply go to Google Images and search for "map of Durban harbour" and you will find a good selection.